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Commission on Sustainable Development
Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management
23-27 February 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strategic approaches to freshwater management.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Working Group shall elect, at the commencement of the first meeting, from among the representatives of its members, such officers as may be required.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure, the Working Group shall, at the beginning of the session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

3. Strategic approaches to freshwater management

In its resolution 1997/63, the Economic and Social Council decided that during the period 1998-2002 the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue the practice of establishing, subject to approval by the Council, up to two inter-sessional ad hoc working

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groups in a given year with a view to assisting the Commission in the preparations for its forthcoming year.

The Council further decided that, on an exceptional basis, the provisional agendas of the 1998 meetings of the inter-sessional ad hoc working group or groups of the Commission would be recommended by the Bureau of the Commission in consultation with member States.

Following its meeting of 2 and 3 October 1997, the Bureau of the Commission recommended that one working group would be devoted to strategic approaches to freshwater management and the other working group to industry and sustainable development.

At its subsequent meeting, on 21 January 1998, the Bureau decided that the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management would meet from 23 to 27 February and the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Industry and Sustainable Development would meet from 2 to 6 March.

It also recommended that both groups would give focused consideration to matters relating to transfer of technology, as they relate to the theme under discussion, and would provide for integrated consideration of other relevant means of implementation, particularly finance. Adequate attention would be given to the overriding issues of poverty and changing consumption and production patterns in accordance with the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly.

The Bureau of the Commission also decided that, in accordance with the recommendation of the special session of the General Assembly, the Commission should continue to provide a forum for the exchange of national experience and best practices in the area of sustainable development. In this regard, it proposed that the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management would include, following the practice established by the Commission, a one-day segment for exchange of national experiences, to take place on Wednesday, 25 February. Based on the working methods of the Commission, five countries, one from each regional group, will make presentations. Following each presentation, there will be time for questions.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of freshwater resources (E/CN.17/1998/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on strategic approaches to freshwater management (E/CN.17/1998/2)

Report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development for the 1997 review of the Rio commitments (E/CN.17/1997/17/Add.1)

Letter from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe transmitting the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management, held at Harare, Zimbabwe, from 27 to 30 January 1998

4. Other matters

5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group

In accordance with established practice, the Working Group will submit a report to the Commission at its sixth session.